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NEWS

This week, the College renounced its decision to offer Winchester faculty housing to students in order to finance the increasing number of students studying abroad. Check out p.6



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SPORTS

Turn to page 10 for previews for men's and women's lacrosse. Also, the track, squash and swimming teams have finished their winter seasons. Check out page 9 for the results.



A&E

Sweet Charity, directed by Lawrence Thelen and featuring Conn student actors, takes the stage this weekend at Tansill Black Box Theater.

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THE COLLEGE VOICE

FRIDAY, MARCH 4 2005

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, NEW LONDON, CT

Fainstein Announces Resignation, Effective June 2006

By JULIA LEFKOWITZ AND THOMAS MCEVOY

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND NEWS EDITOR

On Friday, February 26th, Norman Fainstein, announced that he will resign as President of the College in June 2006. Amongst other accomplishments, Fainstein is accredited for restructuring the College's fiscal budget and establishing an ambitious four-year Strategic Plan.

"I think students were definitely surprised, but he's not resigning tomorrow," stated Pete Lelek, President of SGA. "We have time to make the transition, which will ensure stability and continuity at the College."

The Board of Trustees formally approved Fainstein's resignation at a meeting held the morning of Friday, February 26th.

"President Fainstein had discussed his plans with me and other members of the executive committee of the Board some weeks before the meeting," stated Barbara Kohn, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "We discussed it with the rest of the trustees at a meeting of the full Board on Friday morning. There were varying degrees of surprise. Five years is now around the average tenure for a college president, so it's a natural transition point."

In an e-mail distributed to the campus community, the president cited his desire to teach as the reason

for his decision. In light of this interest, Fainstein will take a one-year sabbatical and return to the College in 2007 to teach courses in sociology and urban studies.

"I thought it was time to take stock of my life and what I've accomplished at the College," Fainstein told *The Voice* in a recent interview. "I also considered how I want to shape the rest of my career and thought it would be great to go back to my first love, which is being a professor. Right now, I teach one sociology course. When I return in 2007, I will teach five courses at the College. Some of the most meaningful relationships I've formed in the past three and half years have been with students, and I look forward to having more opportunities to do this."

Francis Hoffman, Dean of the Faculty, remarked, "I applaud Norman's leadership of the College through a period that called for renewing campus governance processes, securing the fiscal health of the College, and facilitating curricular and programmatic changes.... I understand well the attraction of scholarship and teaching, and look forward to working with Norman when he joins the Sociology Department."

Fainstein became President of

the College at the end of the 2001 academic year after Conn's faculty called for the resignation of former President, Claire Gaudiani. At the

time of Gaudiani's departure, the College was in a precarious financial state. A substantial portion of the Conn community, as well as var-

ious outside media establishments, blamed Gaudiani.

"President Fainstein inherited a financially unstable environment as

well as a climate that was filled with mistrust due to the perceived actions of the previous President," stated David Milstone, Dean of Student Life. "The budget is now balanced."

"I've done a number of things to improve the College's financial state," Fainstein explained. "The most substantial action I've taken is strengthen the PPBC (Priorities, Planning & Budget Committee). The Committee has done an excellent job of making sure that the College operates within its means. They've outlined annual and long-term budgets that accommodate to the College's financial state."

The College has undergone numerous changes in the years since Fainstein's appointment. Fainstein restructured many of Conn's relationships with outside institutions. In December 2003 a contract between the Lyman Allan Museum and the College granted members of the Conn community different types of privileged access to the museum and re-embursed the College with \$1.1 million, a large portion of the money Conn invested when it was a trustee of the museum. Fainstein has also facilitated the creation of amiable ties with the city of New London through increased efforts, such as extended outreach programs in the city. Recent improvements include renovations of Unity House and the Fortune Recital Hall, as well



President Fainstein announced his resignation last Friday. The Board of Trustees approved the resignation later that day. (Pace)

continued on page 6

Conn Student Participates in "The Gates" Art Project Student Life Reconsiders House Council Positions

By THOMAS MCEVOY

NEWS EDITOR

"The Gates," an art display by Connecticut College honorary degree holders Christo and Jeanne-Claude, was unveiled in New York's Central Park on February 12. Conn senior Maggie Turner was one of 600 volunteers who participated in the week long installation process. Turner was given the great honor of unfurling one of the 7,500 saffron gates on opening day.

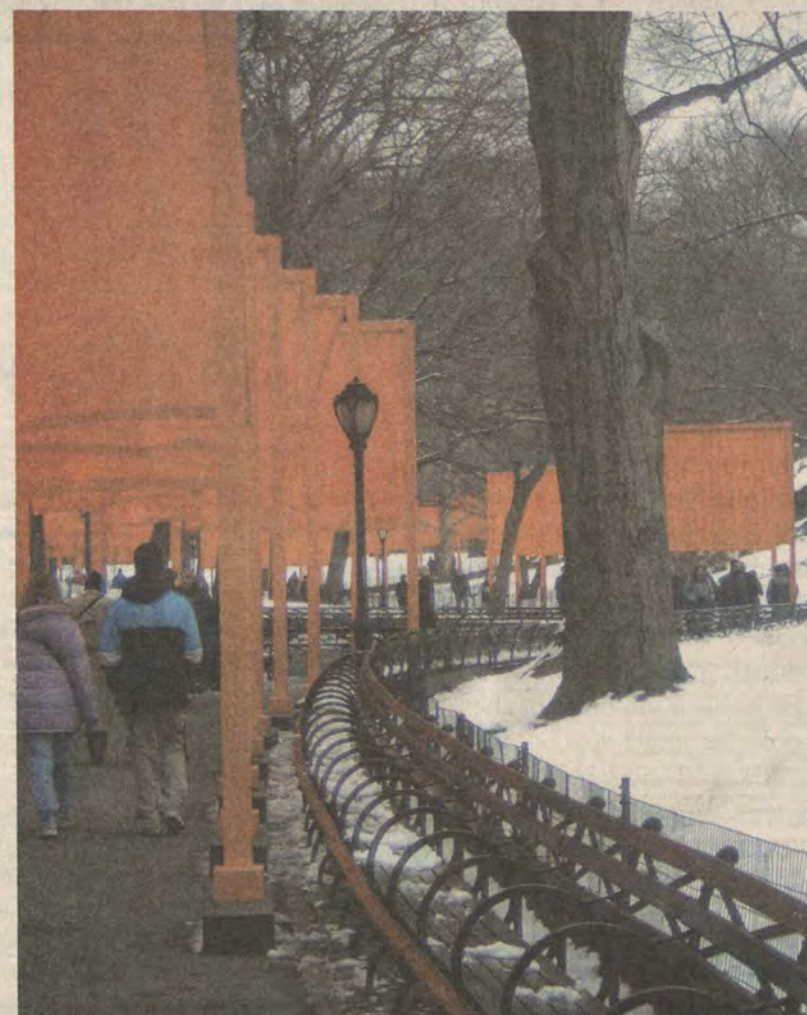
Turner commented on her opportunity to be a part of the project's unveiling. "The experience overall was fabulous," she said. "It was so amazing to see the park transform and to be a part of such an enormous artistic endeavor."

Maggie Turner learned about Christo and Jeanne-Claude's project on their internet website, which contained a link where people could apply to participate in their project. There were three components of the project open to volunteers: installation, monitoring, or removal. Turner chose to apply for the installation aspect of the project and she was chosen. "It was pretty amazing that the whole application process took place online," Turner said.

The volunteers assisting in the installation process were divided up into teams of eight, each group responsible for installing one hundred gates. Turner's group included a high school senior, a Washington married couple, a San Francisco architect, a sculpture from Brooklyn, and a writer from Manhattan. "We had a dynamic group, and we will continue to be friends and keep in touch," Turner said.

As an art history major, Turner feels that participating in the project has enhanced her appreciation of the field. "One of the best classes I ever took here was 'Art from 1945' with visiting Professor Laura Auricchio," she said. "In that class I first learned about Christo and his wrappings, and to have been completely enthralled then and be able to contribute today is remarkable - something I will never forget."

Turner said her experience has also increased her interest in modern art. She is considering the possibility of moving to New York to further her studies in the field.



Maggie Turner '05 unveiled one of the 7,500 saffron gates in Central Park. (Tartaglione)

By MAKENA CAHILL

STAFF WRITER

Every spring during the room selection process, students are elected to House Council positions. The Office of Student Life (OSL) has created a new proposal to amend the current House Council structure to eliminate superfluous positions and to create a House Council that is generally more efficient and effective. Currently, each dorm's House Council is comprised of the Housefellow, one Governor, one Senator, two representatives from each class, two SAC Coordinators, two Environmental Coordinators, two OVCS Representatives, and one

House Diversity Coordinator.

A survey of Housefellows and Governors was compiled by the Office of Student Life in regards to the current system. In general, they saw the effectiveness of House Council to be moderate, although there were positive comments regarding the positions of Freshmen and OVCS representatives. Those positions that were viewed in a more negative light were SAC Coordinator, Class Representatives and Environmental Coordinators.

The new plan deals with all House Council positions in a con-

continued on page 6

Room Entry Policy Reassessed

By MATT LISTRO

STAFF WRITER

The Judicial Task Force (JTS) is currently reviewing the College's Room Entry policy to evaluate the appropriate circumstances under which a campus safety officer can enter a student's room without his or her consent. Under the current policy, unless there is an emergency, College staff must gain permission of the Dean of Student Life or another appointed College member before entering a student's room. The current policy in the Student Handbook states, "Except in the case of an emergency, room entry should be carried out with the authorization of the Dean of Student Life, or designee, and, where practical, with the awareness and cooperation of the student(s) involved."

The Task Force is considering enabling campus safety officers authority to enter a student's room before obtaining such permission. Although certain instances where danger is overtly apparent (such as smoke billowing under a door) allow an officer to enter, other cases are not always as straightforward and frequently leave officers confused during potentially dangerous situations.

Emily Chamberlin, J-Board Chair and Co-Chair of the JTS, mentioned that discussing the policy often makes students uncomfortable because at first glance they fear for their privacy. She said that in actuality, the policy only applies to three or four incidents per year.

Although the Student Government Association's approval of the Task Force's proposed policies is not essential, Chamberlin said the JTS would like a new plan that the SGA feels comfortable with, that will ensure safety and secure privacy, and will maintain sufficient checks on campus safety's ability to inadvertently enter a room.

The new language of the policy is still being discussed by the Task Force, but Chamberlin said a complete list of circumstances under which campus safety officers can enter a room will be made available to students once the new policy is enacted.

Dessert and Dialogue Targets Athletic Issues

By EMILY HONSTEIN

STAFF WRITER

The image of athletics at Conn was the topic of this past Tuesday's Dessert and Dialogue, hosted by Morrison Housefellow, Paige Diamond '05. Approximately twenty students and six coaches attended. The purpose of the discussion was to dispel the myth of sub-par athletics at Conn.

Diamond began by saying that athletics are overall "not poor, and we should recognize that they are a huge part of the school." The talk began by discussing the role athletics play on the campus.

Josh Edmed, the women's volleyball coach, said that "athletics are a way to facilitate and enjoy academics here at school." There was a general consensus that attending games is a great way to get involved on campus.

Kristin Steele, the women's hockey coach, commented that with seventy-five percent of the student body participating in sports at some level, "athletics reach the most people on campus," which provides a great way to promote school pride and unity among the student body.

Some of the non-varsity athletes also spoke of the respect they have for their peers' dedication to their respective sports. Students brought up the campus-wide perception of athletics, particularly the common notion that all teams at Conn have losing records. The possibility was brought up that this may be due to the fact that varsity sports at the College have a rather short

history.

Unlike some athletic rivals, such as Trinity and Williams who have been competing for over a hundred years, the athletic program at Conn has only been in existence for the past thirty-five years.

Many of the students felt that part of the reason for the lack of athletic culture might be rooted in the poor condition of the Athletic Center itself. Students suggested that the state of the AC reflects the school's attitude towards athletics, which in turn facilitates the students' indifference.

One student mentioned that Connecticut College is a member of the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC), and many people are unaware of the prestige associated with being part of this conference. The NESCAC is one of the most competitive leagues in the country, so even if Conn's teams lose occasionally, it may be because they are facing some of the top competitors in the nation.

Many students came away from the meeting with the sense that the larger student body should focus less on the weaknesses of Conn's teams and focus more on the prestige of Conn's competitors. Those that attended expressed that the session was highly productive.

EDITORIAL&OPINION

Fainstein's Legacy: Several Achievements Acknowledged

Students were surprised last Friday when President Fainstein announced his resignation. The announcement came in the form of a campus-wide e-mail. Because Fainstein has been at Conn for four years, there were clearly many things to be said regarding his role here.

President Fainstein faced a grim situation when he began his tenure as President of the College in 2001. Undoubtedly, many students who have enrolled at the College since then have heard rumors about Conn's previous president, Claire Gaudiani. After undertaking several projects that the College was unable to afford and attempting to create unrealistic ties with the city of New London, Gaudiani left the College with a financial deficit after the faculty called for her resignation. Thus, much of Fainstein's endeavors were focused on addressing the College's financial crisis, and indeed he succeeded.

The College has seen a financial surplus in recent years, which has increased the endowment. Although the College has still been unable to immediately initiate large projects it has set forth in its Strategic Plan, the stabilized budget attributed to Fainstein's conservative financial management has enabled the College some financial flexibility unheard of during the end of Gaudiani's tenure. For instance, the new Athletic Center roof and the campus-wide Internet upgrade both installed last summer were hundred-thousand dollar projects that the College's budget was able to accommodate.

Although the financial repair work is not completed, President Fainstein is credited with the recent appointment of Vice President for Advancement Gregory Waldron, who joined the College from Wesleyan University. Waldron is an important addition to Conn's administration, as he has already stated several ways he intends on meeting its financial needs. For example, he plans to initiate the creation of a committee charged with finding ways to sell the College's Strategic Plan to various groups outside the campus community. Thus, the financial work will continue smoothly even after President Fainstein leaves office.

Aside from increasing the financial stability of the College, President Fainstein has addressed the important issue of diversity at the College. He created the Presidential Commission on Pluralism only one year after coming to the College. Furthermore, he addressed bias incidents on campus with a mandatory diversity summit two years ago and designated a day each year solely devoted to the awareness of diversity issues. Thus, Fainstein has brought the issue of pluralism to the forefront of discussion at the College and made it one of the priority items on the agenda.

Perhaps most significantly, Fainstein created the Strategic Planning Commission to reevaluate the College's mission and set goals for its future. This Committee has established a road map for where the College hopes to go as its bicentennial approaches.

The Voice has wondered how the College will remember President Fainstein. Indeed, when viewed in comparison to Claire Gaudiani, he will be credited with resuscitating the College's grim financial situation. Moreover, his diversity initiatives will be seen as illustrative as the College's commitment to becoming a fully pluralistic community. Essentially, his rational and realistic initiatives have helped the college recreate its identity and maintain its commitment to remaining a strong liberal arts College devoted to excellence.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Women's Basketball Team Offers Alternative Interpretation of Season

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to an article printed in the February 4th edition of The College Voice. The article titled "Women's Basketball Has Inconsistent Year" is both inaccurate and ridiculous. It is embarrassing that The College Voice covers games that are not even attended by the writers and even more appalling when the coverage is inaccurate. This season our women's basketball team finished the season 10-13. We were competitive with many conference teams, such as nationally ranked Bowdoin and Williams, and achieved a huge NESCAC victory over Colby. It is the first time in eight years that the Conn women's basketball team has finished with double digits in the win column, improving from a season four years ago when we went 2-19.

In light of the achievements and progress that have been made over the past few years and our nearly 500

record this year, it is absurd that an article was printed in The College Voice claiming that our team has had an "inconsistent year." Our combination of senior leadership and the addition of many young players ready to step up and fill roles have resulted in one of the best seasons that Conn Women's basketball has seen in years. However, the article in the February 4th edition of The College Voice claims that there is still time for the team to "save their season" and build on a "less than impressive record."

As a team we are proud of our accomplishments this season and the progress our women's basketball program has made over the past few years. Finishing with the best record that Conn basketball has seen in eight years is more than impressive. If the authors of these articles took the time to come to a game, they would not only have seen the energy and heart of our team, but our ability to remain competitive against some of the best division three teams in the country. It would be nice if our college newspaper recognized what we consider to be a very successful season.

Sincerely,

2004-05 Connecticut College Women's Basketball Team

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OPINION

THE RED SPECTER OF ... LIBERALISM?

ZACH WEST • GO WEST, YOUNG MAN!

Liberalism has been tried, and it has failed. It failed in Soviet Russia. It failed in China and Cuba. It's failing right now in the United States. Liberalism is a failure, and we all ought to wake up and realize it.

I heard such mindless twaddle being put forth by Rush Limbaugh a



while ago on that vile, decrepit radio show of his. I heard his words and sat there motionless, my jaw hanging

open incredulously, my brow furrowed in frustration. "That man just equated liberalism with state-sponsored communism," I thought to myself. "Either he honestly doesn't know the difference between the two, or he's just ignoring reality in order to support his intellectually destitute argument." Then I made a great mistake: I thought some more. "But he's a political talk radio host," I pondered. "So he's either a fatuous moron or a lying rhetorician. Or both. And yet people actually LISTEN to him!" At that point I took few Advil, lay down on the couch, and tried to forget about the remarkable idiocy that was axing a hole in the roof of my skull.

Calling liberals communists is a shrewd political tactic, and it's worked out well for the American right. In the past decade or two, conservatives have won a great ideological victory by inventing a connection between liberalism and communism in the minds of the American public. The conservatives are merely playing off of extant prejudices; for about eighty years, Americans have possessed an inborn, prima facie mistrust of anything Red. It doesn't matter whether someone is a Nicaraguan professor, or a member of an East European socialist party, or a Cambodian rice farmer.

IS THE U.S. LOSING ITS SCIENTIFIC EDGE?

PETER LUTHY • VIEWPOINT

In a recent letter to mathematicians and scientists, the presidents of the American Chemical, Physical, and Mathematical Societies wrote, "U.S. leadership in science and technology used to be a foregone conclusion. No longer... other nations are



rapidly building scientific capabilities that rival ours — as evidenced by more U.S. companies moving science and

engineering jobs and facilities offshore and by fewer international students applying for U.S. graduate programs in science and engineering... In a competitive global market, where corporate time horizons are measured in months rather than years, companies simply cannot provide substantial support for long-term, high-risk research. This is why the government plays such a dominant, irreplaceable role in basic research."

What has allowed America to maintain its economic dominance over the world since WWII has been its near-monopoly on scientific knowledge. As the political climate in pre-war Europe worsened, most of the European scientific elite fled to America. The mathematical center of the universe moved from Göttingen, Germany to Princeton, New Jersey. This migration established a concentration of technical skill that no country had ever amassed.

When the American physics community came together to develop nuclear fission, it was undoubtedly the greatest collective scientific effort that ever was (and likely that ever will be). Most of these physicists were simultaneously overjoyed and devastated by their achievement. Richard Feynman, one of the most recognizable names in physics, had only just finished his PhD before joining the Manhattan project; for

They're all communists, Satan's own henchmen, and they must be bombed forthwith.

Conservatives have merely exploited this innate, intuitive hatred of communism to smear liberals with red paint. But, upon even cursory examination, the association doesn't work. The ideologies and practices of Stalinist Russia and Maoist China are worlds apart from the agenda of American liberals. American liberals advocate human rights; communist regimes torture and kill millions. American liberals support dialogue and dissent; communist regimes demand rigid conformity. American liberals recognize the legitimacy of pluralistic democracy, under a Lockean social-contract theory of political justice; communist systems observe only the supreme authority and unchallengeable hegemony of their own party. And although both ideologies call for 'equality', liberals and communists disagree on what that means; generally speaking, liberals desire equal opportunities for all, whereas communists desire a classless society based on equal wealth and socialized means of production. In short, liberalism and communism both desire equality, but they have different ideas of what equality should be and how a society should get there.

Linking one political opponent with another, clearly unrelated opponent in order to taint them both is not a new practice. The Nazis, for instance, insisted that Judaism and Bolshevism were two sides of the same evil coin. And now people like Rush Limbaugh insist that communism and liberalism are synonymous. But, in arguing that the two terms are virtually interchangeable, conservatives unwittingly have provided themselves with a dilemma. If liberalism is communism, then conservatism is fascism; the latter claim is no more illogical, mendacious, or absurd than the former. Heil Limbaugh!

years after the war ended, he was sure that humanity would swallow itself up in a terrifying nuclear war.

Moral issues aside, the knowledge developed in Los Alamos thrust human society forward into a new era just like the steam engine had during the industrial revolution. Much of modern computing owes itself to techniques developed in the use of mechanical calculators while developing the bomb. This time period also saw an evolution of the role of government in scientific research. The U.S. government suddenly realized that basic scientific research could do anything — even end a war. After 1945, America couldn't throw enough money to scientific researchers; math and science had never before been so lucrative a field.

Yet in recent years, government interest in basic research has been slipping. Currently, we invest less than 1% of GDP in federal research grants. This is less than half of the rate in the 1960s and other leading nations are investing significantly more into scientific research. The authors of the letter cited above quote a recent poll saying that 70% of the American public believes we do not invest enough money in basic research. Why should we believe the American public on this issue? Because Bill Gates was quoted years ago as saying, "640k of memory should be enough for anybody." In 2005, most computers have about eight hundred times that amount, and it is my understanding that this man came into some pretty serious money in the computer industry. Anyone who is not marveled by the technology that has developed in the past fifty years is too young to know any different.

These are the parting words of the societies' presidents: "Steps lost in scientific leadership are difficult to regain. So we must ask: Will our nation make the research investments needed to stay a competitive step ahead in the global economy? Or will we hold back and take our chances? Let's not roll the dice."

THE FUTURE OF VIETNAM?

YONI FREEMAN • OCCUPIED TERRITORY



It has been said that a person never forgets how to ride a bike. I think you can say that about people engaging in capitalism as well — at least in Ho Chi Minh City's (a.k.a. Saigon's) case. The fact there is more

widely spoken English, less patient vendors and a diverse array of products makes this feeling completely true.

Since last Friday, the Connecticut College student group I am a part of has been staying put in southern Vietnam's major city — Ho Chi Minh City. The city, the former capital of American-backed South Vietnam, fell to the communist forces in their "Ho Chi Minh Campaign" in 1975. As soon as the Red forces expanded their power, a campaign of renewed terror spread in the south, which took the toll of many lives and had many people arrested and branded in need of "re-education" — therefore placed in camps for that purpose. In the mid-1980s, after the "renovation" period began, market forces again were allowed into the now renamed city.

The city itself today is much more modern than Hanoi. The roads are much better well kept, there is less trash in the streets, traffic laws are better followed, and people go on their daily lives in a way which seems to revolve more around the tourist and for showing off the city to tourists. Tourist areas are moreover better defined and developed for the visitor. Their increased knowledge of English and the "business-feel" that many vendors offering goods and services have means they can spend more time trying to get their message across to foreigners they target in the streets.

We visited a number of sites in Ho Chi Minh

SUDDENLY, HOPE FOR LEBANON

NICK IYENGAR • OUT IN RIGHT FIELD



Lebanon is a relatively tiny country — it's even smaller than Connecticut. However, its size does not correspond to its importance in the Middle East. For 30 years, Syrian troops have occupied large swaths of Lebanese territory, while a group of stooges known as the Lebanese government have been controlled from Damascus. Today, though, there are signs that Lebanon might be under the thumb of the Syrians for only a short time more.

Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was assassinated on February 14, presumably on orders of the Syrian government. This has caused outrage among the Lebanese people — massive protests have taken place, despite a Saddam-like ban on protests in Beirut. These sizable demonstrations, combined with other factors, provide hope that the situation in Lebanon is spiraling out of control of the Syrians.

The UN Security Council passed Resolution 1559 in September of 2004, calling for fair and free elections in Lebanon, devoid of outside (namely, Syrian) influence, and for all remaining foreign troops to be removed from Lebanese territory. Obviously, UN resolutions are just words and are unlikely to be enforced, as was the case with Iraq, but the words at least demonstrate that the world stands with the United States in pressuring Syria to end its strangle-hold on the Lebanese government and people.

Additionally, Syrian President Bashar Al-Asad has witnessed the fate inflicted upon Saddam Hussein by the world. Syria is virtually a clone of

A COMPLETE IDIOT'S ZAGAT'S GUIDE TO BARRON'S SPRING BREAK FOR DUMMIES — 2005 EDITION

ANDREW MEYER • I HAVE ADD



As the time before break gently winds down (or accelerates before screeching to a halt as it collides with a brick wall, in my case), we find ourselves averting our eyes away from the mountains of work and towards something much more pleasant. And no, I don't mean the hot girl in your Art History class. I'm talking about spring break.

For those of you who don't know much about spring break, I'll give you a little background information. Contrary to popular belief, "spring break" does not imply a break in the spring semester; rather, it comes from the Latin phrase "Springius Breakium", meaning "cheap booze and fine honeys." And don't get mad at me for using such crude phrases; it's not my fault the Romans were not as sophisticated as me. I mean, c'mon, we're talking about a group of people whose public bathrooms were just one big toilet that everybody shared. And that's a true fact. (Right here, I wanted to make a footnote, and when you went to the bottom it would say "by 'true fact', I mean 'I made it up'", but I've been informed that my column can't have footnotes.) First they take away the spicy chicken parm, now our ability to do footnotes... what's next? It better not be pumpkin pie, or else it's revolution time.

But I digress. I'm pretty sure I had a point somewhere before that digression, but it flew out the window faster than Superman on amphetamines, and I'm not entirely sure what it was to begin with. So we'll just assume it was something about spring break, and keep moving along.

Many of you may not have finalized your spring break travel plans. Luckily for you, your procrastination has paid off, because you get to read this wonderful travel guide before deciding on your final destination (and speaking of Final Destination, I never saw that movie, but it didn't seem to make sense. If I was death, and I wanted a bunch of kids to die, I wouldn't be trying to hit them with a freaking bus. Why not just snap your fingers and say "heart attack"? Wouldn't that be much easier?) And for those of you who planned ahead and made your travel plans weeks ago without the

City and in the surrounding area. The first were the Cu Chi tunnels, a historical tunnel network used by the Vietnamese fighters in battling French and US forces. It is about an hour and a half outside of the city. It is a revolutionary site showing off a whole system of tunnels exhibiting how the Vietnamese could live, plan and fight beneath the surface.

The tour guide, who explained the history to us, also led us through the tunnels. The longest of the underground tunnels was about 70m long. At times, however, some of the tunnels were too small for a person to crawl into, and some of our group members were not able to navigate through all of them. Moreover, not all of the tunnels were well lighted. Other rooms had mock up recreations of the structures (whether meeting halls or booby traps) they used to contain.

The more lively part of the tunnel experience was the bats hanging about — you couldn't see them coming at you. At the end of the tour some people took the liberty of firing at the nearby firing range — weapons such as AK-47s, pistols and sniper rifles. Both Vietnamese and foreign visitors fired on the range.

Next to Cu Chi tunnels was a city that housed a large temple complex of another religious minority in Vietnam. The Cathedral is hard to miss and displays many icons and statues. Located in Long Hoa, the Cao Dai Cathedral is the center of Cao Daism ideology. We were able to see their afternoon ceremony and explore some of the streets around it.

Another day was spent at the Mekong Delta, in the city of My Tho, Tieu Giang province. It began with us taking a 4-hour boat trip down the river. On the boat we were treated to coconut milk and to fruit and tea on islands where we stopped — Phoenix and Unicorn. Interestingly, there are flourishing catfish farms literally on the river,

with locals living on them. On the bottom of their floating homes there were catfish swimming in cages.

The first island, Phoenix, has a state-run coconut candy factory on it, including a small temple. The story goes that there was an individual who believed he could unify Vietnam with a new religion — a religion dedicated to worshipping coconuts. This man, who died in the early 90s, built the small temple. Additionally, he built a "spaceship" on the island when he heard about Sputnik. He thought that if someone reached space he could outperform and reach Heaven. He had around 3000 followers.

The next island, Unicorn, was a sort of tourist resort with a little village in existence still. There is even a primary school. Our tour of the island was coupled with stops at little family run businesses making coconut candy or bread products.

Back in Ho Chi Minh City I so far have visited the city museum and the War Remnants Museum. The city museum basically describes the early history of life in Ho Chi Minh City, and then traces its version of how the revolution was spread to it from the north. There is ample space discussing their campaign to reunify the country, both in terms of what the northern government did externally and internally to the southern regime of Diem.

The War Remnants Museum has been, for me, the best place to visit, in terms of the extensive presentations it contained. It is known as the most anti-American museum in the country. It was true to its word. The museum was divided into various parts. The first section dealt with the crimes of the French, and the second with the crimes of the Americans, (as they label it). Rooms were filled with many pictures, mostly from foreign sources.

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Iraq, as it is ruled by the Arab Socialist Renaissance (better known as the Ba'ath Party.) The Bush administration, along with the French and other governments, has had harsh words for Syria, and the notion of an American-led invasion of Syria has been mentioned as a possible next chapter in the re-making of the Middle East. Surely, the Syrians are feeling the heat, and I am not referring to their climate.

All this means that the chances of a return to a free Lebanon are greater now than they have been in recent memory. The consequences of the return of Lebanese democracy would be far-reaching and highly significant.

Although there has been a large exodus of the Christian population of Lebanon, Christians still make up nearly 40 percent of the population, while various Muslim sects comprise the rest of the Lebanese. Thus, if Iraq and Lebanon become free democracies, there would be three democracies in the Middle East: one Jewish (Israel), one predominantly Shiite (Iraq), and one composed of Sunnis and Christians (Lebanon). Democracies do not fight each other, so having each of the major religious groups of the Middle East represented in a legitimate democracy could do wonders for peace and stability in the region.

If Lebanon returns to democracy as a direct result of the invasion of Iraq, America will have gotten two for the price of one. Whatever happens over the next weeks and months in Lebanon, freedom is "on the march," as President Bush likes to say. The Lebanese have witnessed the successful Iraqi elections, and are asking "why not here?" This is a question that is sure to be asked by Muslims all over the Middle East in the near future.

benefit of a guide to help you, stop working so damn hard, because it's kids like you who mess up the curve and make the rest of us look bad.

With that, I bring you to the heart of the column: a guide to spring break locations. When making a guide, one must take into consideration many factors: affordability, fine dining, historical significance, atmosphere, and relaxation opportunities. However, none of those things really appeal to me, so I'm grading on a few other categories instead, such as warm weather, cheap drinks, a low drinking age, attractive persons of your gender of choice (this is the "fine honeys" the Romans were talking about), gambling opportunities, and other similar factors. And now, after that lengthy introduction, I leave you with the guide itself. For your convenience (or possibly my amusement,) it has been alphabetized by the 4th letter of each location's name.

Cuba. With its fine cigars and beautiful weather, Cuba is clearly a fine destination for any traveler. Sure, there's that minor detail about how you might not be able to get there, and if you do, they might not let you out, but that's just a little setback in your quest for the world's finest cigars. However, if it's really smoking that you're looking for, you might be better off in another country, possibly one that begins with "A", ends with "m", and has a "msterda" in the middle. But we'll get to that later. Because the next location is...

Canada. Poor Canada. It gets such a bad rep, and is the blunt of countless jokes, many of which involve the phrase "eh?" But Canada has its pluses, the most notable of which are beautiful weather and beaches galore. Oh, my bad, I thought I was in the Cuba paragraph still. Well, I don't really know much about Canada. I have some friends who went last year, and they told me the drinking age is 18 and the strip clubs are cheap. So I guess that's good, although personally I would rather go to...

Cancun. If you're trying to get yourself in the next Girls Gone Wild tape, this is definitely your place. Cancun scores well in almost every measurable category. Warm weather, beautiful beaches, booze galore, and full of college students, there's no question why Cancun is the favorite travel des-

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ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

Student Cast Offers *Charity* to Campus This Weekend

By RACHEL GAINES

A&E EDITOR

After the enormous success of *Cabaret* last Spring, director Lawrence Thelen decid-

ed to take a swing at another musical with this winter's Mainstage production of *Sweet Charity*. Based on the book by Neil Simon, *Sweet Charity* follows a few days in the life of a down-and-out taxi dancer, Charity Hope

Valentine, as she looks for some kind of happiness in her bleak existence.

When we first meet Charity, played by freshman Jess Swain '08, she's professing her love through song to her sleazy, greasy

haired, leather jacket-wearing thug of a boyfriend. And how might he respond to this charming declaration of devotion? He steals her purse and pushes her into a lake without as much as a glimmer of feeling or a word of remorse.

The audience is soon introduced to Charity's place of employment, a dance club called The Fandango and the slew of young dancers who work there. This chorus of girls is not only responsible for the most well known song in the play ("Hey Big Spender") but also for some of the funniest moments in Simon's story.

Upon leaving the club, it appears as though Charity's luck is going to take a turn for the worse once she gives all her money away to needy charities and ends up penniless and starving.

Fortunately, she stumbles (quite literally) into famed B-movie star Vittorio Vidal (Chris Davis '08) who inspires some faith in the downtrodden heroine.

Suddenly things are looking up for everyone. Girls at the club are starting to speak up about their discontent over their work, Vittorio's love life gets back on track, and even Charity keeps her chin up. She goes on to meet Oscar (Soren Gabrielson '07), a bumbling tax accountant who may be just the man to turn Charity's luck around.

The original production of *Sweet Charity* was directed and choreographed by arguably history's best stage choreographer, Bob Fosse, and this performance obviously takes that into consideration. In the "Hey

Big Spender" number in particular, Fosse's influence cannot be ignored. The most accessible comparison is to the "Cell Block Tango" in *Chicago*. The sultry lyrics are communicated exquisitely in the dancing in both numbers.

Another wonderful addition to the performance is a student pit to back up the vocals on stage. While it is not a full orchestra, the pit makes the musical numbers seem bigger than those shows in which there is only piano to accompany the singers. In past pit orchestras for Mainstage plays, the theater department has had to hire professional musicians, so the mere fact that the entire pit is composed of students from campus adds to the excitement of college theater.

The play is broken up by fun ensemble dance numbers and songs, but in many ways, it is not the typical musical. While songs help move the plot along, as is the case with all Broadway musicals, *Sweet Charity* is not dominated by musical numbers. They are certainly a part of the experience, but consistent with Simon's style, relatively realistic dialogue and interesting, sympathetic characters are the most important layer of the writing.

Sweet Charity opens this Thursday, March 3rd at 8 pm in the Tansill Black Box Theater with subsequent 8 pm shows on March 4th, 5th, and 6th with additional matinee shows on Saturday the 5th and Sunday the 6th at 2 pm. To reserve tickets or for additional information, call the box office at (860) 439-ARTS (x2787).



Students in the production of "Sweet Charity" will be performing this weekend in Tansill Theater. This is the second musical production at Conn since 2003. (Pace)

RENT Pays a Visit to New London's Garde Theater

By CHRISTINE CARTER

STAFF WRITER

This Friday and Saturday, Conn students can see the Tony Award winning musical *RENT* without driving two hours to hit the Broadway theaters. The show is less than ten minutes away, at New London's Garde Arts Center.

The show that swept the nation during its premiere year in 1996 and continues to entertain audiences will now be gracing yet another city with its wit, sorrow, and infectious energy.

RENT, written by the late Jonathan Larson who also created the recently premiered *Tick, Tick...Boom*, began as a workshop production after enduring the creative process for several years prior to its completion. In addition to *RENT*, the Garde will be playing host to a variety of performances this spring. On March 19th, Bizet's *Carmen* comes to town, followed by the Russian National Ballet's presentation of *Sleeping Beauty* on April 3, and *Phantom of the Opera* on Saturday, May 21st.

Student tickets for all performances are \$35-\$50. The Garde certainly rivals the Broadway houses in both appearance and quality of performance, and so is worth every penny.

RENT has gone on to become a national phenomenon and a cultural icon, winning all major theater awards, including the Drama Desk Award, the N.Y. Critics Circle Drama Award, the Tony Award, and the Pulitzer Prize. It has toured cities all across the country as well as internationally, performing in places like Germany and Australia.

RENT is a coming of age story about a group of not-so-average people. While they can be categorized as artistic, poor, and underprivileged like so many people

in New York City, the majority of the characters in *RENT* are also victims of AIDS and HIV. The characters have to survive not only the conditions in which they are placed, but battle with one of the most devastating diseases known to man.

While it sounds like the story has the potential to be sappy and preachy, the heartfelt emotion of the lyrics, the power of the score, and the multi-faceted personalities of the characters make it difficult not to be charmed by the rawness and poignancy of this piece.

It follows the story of Roger, a struggling musician whose girlfriend left him a note informing him that he was infected with AIDS, as was she, before committing suicide.

Roger meets Mimi, a dancer at a club, and the rest of the show follows their love affair and the relationships of their friends, who for the most part are also victims of HIV/AIDS. Some of its most well known musical numbers include "Seasons of Love," "One Song Glory," and "La Vi Boheme."

Each performance of *RENT* brings something new to the story and each new cast interprets the characters differently. If you go to this fantastic show, just make sure you do a little background research (especially a who's who of characters) that can be found on www.sitefor-rent.com if you have never seen the show. Otherwise, the various subplots can be confusing, and in this play, you don't want to miss a single moment.

The performances are Friday and Saturday at 8 pm and Saturday at 3 pm. For ticket prices and availability go to www.gardearts.org. And if you can't make it this weekend, check out the *RENT* site for tickets in New York and on tour.



Jump Off the Soul Coughing: Sugar Free Jazz Bandwagon!

As anyone who's ever watched VH1 knows, the 80's were a time when glam rock was king. I'm talking about pastel pink guitars played by white dudes with big hair covered in glitter and mascara, a breed of rockers who now only live on in



ZACH ADAMS
JUMP OFF THE BANDWAGON!

music television nostalgia and shady reunion tours attended by middle aged groupies. Fortunately for us, the reign of these spandex and leather clad titans came to an abrupt end thanks to a solitary song, saving most of a new decade from a similar

fate. In 1991, Nirvana released the single "Smells Like Teen Spirit" off of *Nevermind* and nothing would ever be the same.

Nirvana essentially copied the sounds of previous indie bands of the 80's, muddling it with a heavier metal influence. When asked about "Teen Spirit" in an interview, Kurt Cobain replied, "I was trying to write the ultimate pop song. I was basically trying to rip off The Pixies." What /was/ new, however, was mainstream exposure. The Pixies, while keeping that indie fire burning in the 80s hair metal storm, had never achieved wild popularity, but rather a cult following which formed after their breakup.

Despite the fact that sonically, Nirvana was nothing new, Cobain became the Godfather of "alternative" rock, and was responsible for thrusting it into the public eye. What started as the explosion of Seattle's grunge movement quickly inspired waves of new bands, as Pearl Jam, Soundgarden and Alice in Chains spawned legions of rock artists. Green Day, who simply piggy-backed on the new exposure, had a

sound similar enough that MTV took notice, and the song "Longview" off *Dookie* helped kick-start the punk revival in '94 paving the way for bands like Rancid and Sublime.

Even the death of Kurt Cobain couldn't stop the continuous onslaught of alternative rock, as Nirvana drummer Dave Grohl immediately went on to form the Foo Fighters in 1995. It seemed as though there was no stopping them. The '90s were destined to be an age dominated by alternative rock.

The great shame, of course, is that everything else was left by the wayside. Although grunge began to decline in the face of boy bands and girl pop near the end of the decade, other bands were generally ignored. While most of these bands never made it anywhere, some like Cake, Beck, and the Eels managed to survive quite successfully. But more typical rock-style acts of the '90s like Superchunk and Built to Spill still remain unrecognized for their musical genius.

One such group overlooked group, unrecognized for both their originality and their amazing talent, is Soul Coughing. I will do my absolute best to suitably describe their sound on paper, but I must say

which critics have struggled for years with. Lead singer and guitarist Mike Doughty jokingly describes them as "deep slacker jazz," although this falls far short of an adequate illustration.

Doughty is the creative force behind the group, ranting and grinding out frantic verses, jumping back and forth between nonsensical babble and well-crafted lyrics reminiscent of something you'd expect to hear at a poetry slam. What is most remarkable, however, is his voice. He looks like any other skinny white man, yet he emits an incredibly deep and raspy voice that matches perfectly with the half read, half sung stream of consciousness beatnik poetry he throws into the mic.

Doughty had the opportunity to recruit excellent musicians thanks to his job as a doorman at the Knitting Factory in New York. He met bassist Sebastian Steinberg who was named Best Bassist at the 1998 Gibson Guitar Awards in the face of competition like Paul McCartney, Flea, and Les Claypool. He also enlisted drummer Yuval Gabay whose fantastic skills perfectly employ mechanical drum and bass style and funky break beats. The most subtle and defining characteristic of Soul Coughing is the electronic sampling

and synth by Mark De Gli Antoni, which give an undercurrent of atmosphere to every track. He uses sounds of motors running, sirens, seagulls squawking, jazz horns, pipe organ riffs, all blended together with the band's idiosyncratic fusion of jazz, hip hop, and pop.

After touring under various names, the Brooklyn quartet took the name Soul Coughing from the title of a bad poem Doughty wrote about Neil Young throwing up in the back of a bus. In 1994 they released their first album, */Ruby Vroom/*. It showcases experimental blends of jazz and pop, as Steinberg jams on upright bass, plucking funky rubber band basslines in "Uh, Zoom Zip" and "Is Chicago, Is Not Chicago." "Screenwriter's Blues" stands out because the lyrics are spoken in the format of a radio broadcast over sampled trombones and horns. But the greatest track is "True Dreams of Wichita," where bitter nostalgia is evident in the beautiful lyrics and soft delivery describing a road trip through the midwest to visit a cheating lover. Actual recorded phone messages on the road are sampled in the background along with faint traffic noises, which, backed by a haunting bass pattern, invoke vivid images of what Doughty sings

about.

1996 saw the release of Soul Coughing's second (and arguably best) album, */Irresistible Bliss/*. Here Doughty's guitar became more prominent, and if anything Steinberg's upright bass becomes even more driving. "Soft Serve" and "Soundtrack to Mary" are clever pop songs with simple acoustic guitar licks accompanied by jazzy piano melodies. And underneath, the steady pulse of Sebastian's upright bass beats on. Doughty's lyrics, while once again nonsensical, have interesting stories behind them. "The guitar part comes from an attempt to emulate the way the guitar slithers around the accents in Snoop Dogg's 'Nuthin' But A 'G' Thing', whereas the melody is more or less failed attempts at variants of the line '...and I slowly came to see all of the things that you are made of...' in the Mary J. Blige song 'Real Love'."

The album opens with "Super Bon Bon," a pounding rhythm and funky five note bass line accompanied by Doughty's sporadic poetry. "Idiot Kings" plays with a pulsating bass melody and sweet guitar riff with faint wailing trumpets. "Disseminated" is jumpy with twist-

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ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

Dreams Come True in Johnson's Newest And the Oscar goes to...

By PAUL DRYDEN
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

Jack Johnson writes songs that just make you feel good. Perfect for a day at the beach, a night of studying, or simply chillin' out. His acoustic guitar, soothing voice and folksy-reggae-blues songs helped transform him from a professional surfer into an international star.

So it should be no surprise that the Hawaiian native sticks to his successful formula with his third release, *In Between Dreams*.

On the album, Johnson is still playing with his core trio featuring drummer Adam Topol and bassist Merlo Podlewski. It is definitely his best work since his debut, *Brushfire Fairytales*, and probably the most upbeat yet. Becoming a father in 2004 might have something to do with that.

"I'd feel funny writing a song that had a lot of angst in it, because that's not my personality," Johnson told *Outside Magazine*.

"Even if it's a cynical song, my main goal is to make you feel better when you hear it. All the tones we try to get are easy on the ears. I like edgy music—it's just not what comes out of me."

Johnson recently started his own record label called "Brushfire Records," with fellow surfer

Donavon Frankenreiter and the Philly band G. Love & Special Sauce, who helped Johnson's career take off by recording his song "Rodeo Clowns" for G. Love's *Philadelphonic* disc. The trio spent

Hawaii, and could ride a board before he could walk. He began competing in pro surfing events in 1992, at age 17. He quit professional surfing to study filmmaking at UC Santa Barbara and his first film,

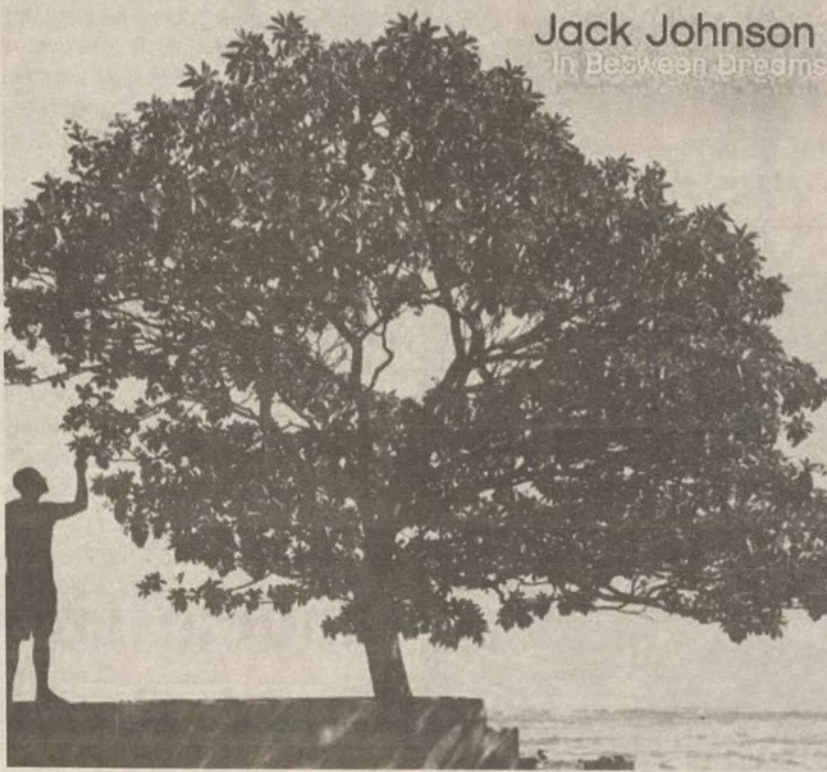
a banana pancake aficionado myself, I could not help but love it. Johnson sings, "Waking up too early/Maybe we can sleep in/I'll make you banana pancakes/Pretend like it's the weekend now."

"Staple It Together" is a funky, sing-a-long melodic song that will find you wanting more and more. "Better Together" is a love song written for Johnson's wife, Kim. "It's not always easy and sometimes life can be deceiving/But I'll tell you one thing, it's always better when we're together."

"Breakdown" is a new version of the song with the same name on the most recent *Handsome Boy Modeling School* CD. This take is more stripped down and disappointingly one of my least favorite moments on the album.

Johnson's 2003 album, *On and On*, debuted at No. 3 on The Billboard 200 and subsequently went platinum on the back of hit single "The Horizon Has Been Defeated." With *In Between Dreams* exponentially better, he can only keep getting bigger and bigger.

Jack Johnson recently announced a summer national tour with SoCal jam band friends, *Animal Liberation Orchestra*. Visit his site at www.jackjohnson.com for details.



last summer touring the country.

A one-time filmmaker, Johnson grew up on the renowned surfing beaches of the North Shore of Oahu,

1999's *Thicker Than Water*, became an instant surf classic.

The standout track on the album is definitely "Banana Pancakes." As

Ortega's: Small Space but Big on Taste

By ARETI SAKELLARIS
STAFF WRITER

For someone who has never experienced a Mexican dinner, my recent trip to Ortega's in Groton promised to be a memorable "South of the Border" experience.

Despite being situated next to a craft store and a liquor store, Ortega's looks strangely authentic. The tumbled stone façade seems to have emerged from a small town back in Mexico.

Once inside, the first thing you'll realize is that it's small. Imagine the "anti-social room" in Harris divided in half, and then take away just a bit more. But that's OK because it fits

the ambience created by the hanging lanterns. The place is cozy.

In the rear is a small bar that could potentially serve you as well. The walls are decorated with sombreros, woven tapestries, folk-lore inspired images, and some hanging piñatas. The music seemed to be traditional and very quickly I found myself swaying and singing along.

Immediately upon being seated we were given complimentary tortilla chips with two kinds of salsa, cheese and tomato. As for the salsas, the two "experts" I was dining with agreed that they were a little watery. Even as a novice, I too noticed the liquid consistency.

The menu is rather exhaustive

and has many options for the various levels of hunger. Deciding to go full force into the Mexican experience, I ordered a Cancun Dinner: for just under \$10 I had a cheese enchilada, a chicken enchilada, a taco, rice, and refried beans.

I highly recommend the Flautas, which is chicken rolled up in a doughy wrap and then fried with guacamole on top. For the hungriest of all you big-men-on-campus types, try the Chimichanga grande – definitely a must! Aside from these, one can order tacos, quesadillas, and more of the like.

The amount of food on the plate was astronomical. We were all "very happy" with the look, smell, and

taste of our meals.

When desert rolled around, I was denied "one of everything" and instead we ordered a four-piece serving of the sapapillas. These are standard-issue fried dough deserts.

Also interesting is the fried vanilla ice cream; it's ice cream, then a layer of dough, then honey, topped with whipped cream and a marciano cherry.

Our total damage was \$54 (between three of us including drinks, entrée, dessert, tax, and tip). And since everyone left stuffed, it made for a great way to beat the Harris blues.

Do you like rap? Hip-Hop? R&B?

Well A&E is looking for a hip-hop columnist to start writing after Spring Break.

If you think you've got what it takes, submit a writing sample to smseq@conncoll.edu or call Shona at x3847

Last Sunday, the Motion Picture Academy of America presented the 77th Annual Academy Awards to celebrate this year in film. For those who missed the spectacular event, here is a brief recap of this year's Oscar recipients:

- ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE: Jamie Foxx - *Ray*
- ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE: Morgan Freeman - *Million Dollar Baby*
- ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE: Hilary Swank - *Million Dollar Baby*
- ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE: Cate Blanchett - *The Aviator*
- ANIMATED FEATURE FILM: *The Incredibles*
- ART DIRECTION: *The Aviator*
- BEST PICTURE: *Million Dollar Baby*
- CINEMATOGRAPHY: *The Aviator* - Robert Richardson
- COSTUME DESIGN: *The Aviator* - Sandy Powell
- DIRECTING: *Million Dollar Baby* - Clint Eastwood
- DOCUMENTARY FEATURE: *Born into Brothels* - Ross Kauffman and Zana Briski
- DOCUMENTARY SHORT SUBJECT: *Mighty Times: The Children's March* - Robert Hudson and Bobby Houston
- FILM EDITING: *The Aviator*
- FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM: *The Sea Inside* (Spain)
- HONORARY AWARD: Roger Mayer
- HONORARY AWARD: Sidney Lumet
- MAKEUP: *Lemony Snicket's An Unfortunate Series of Events*
- MUSIC (SCORE): *Finding Neverland* - Jan A.P. Kaczmarek
- MUSIC (SONG): *The Motorcycle Diaries* - "Al Otro Lado Del Río"
- WRITING (ADAPTED SCREENPLAY): *Sideways* - Screenplay by Alexander Payne & Jim Taylor
- WRITING (ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY): *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* - Screenplay by Charlie Kaufman; Story by Charlie Kaufman & Michel Gondry & Pierre Bismuth
- SHORT FILM (ANIMATED): *Ryan* - Chris Landreth
- SHORT FILM (LIVE ACTION): *Wasp* - Andrea Arnold
- SOUND EDITING: *The Incredibles*
- SOUND MIXING: *Ray*
- VISUAL EFFECTS: *Spider Man 2*

WCNI Top 20 Albums of the Week:

#	ARTIST	Recording
1.	ARCADE FIRE	Funeral
2.	INTERPOL	Antics
3.	ELLIOTT SMITH	From A Basement On The Hill
4.	FRANK BLACK FRANCIS	Frank Black Francis
5.	STRANGLERS	Norfolk Coast
6.	ROBYN HITCHCOCK	Spooked
7.	PAUL WESTERBERG	Folker
8.	CAN KICKERS	Mountain Dudes
9.	SAINT ETIENNE	Travel Edition
10.	RILO KILEY	More Adventurous
11.	LEGENDARY SHACK SHAKERS	Believe
12.	BLOOD BROTHERS	Crimes
13.	NICK CAVE AND THE BAD SEEDS	Abattoir Blues/The Lyre Of Orpheus
14.	MASSIVE ATTACK	Danny The Dog
15.	ZUTONS	Who Killed The Zutons
16.	BLUES EXPLOSION	Damage
17.	DURAN DURAN	Astronaut
18.	JOHN CALE	Hobo Sapiens
19.	NEKO CASE	The Tigers Have Spoken
20.	WOLF EYES	Burned Mind

NEWS

Residential Life Nixes Winchester Housing

By ELIZABETH GREENMAN
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

On February 24th, the Office of Residential Life and Housing sent a mass email to all Connecticut College students notifying them of the decision to withdraw the Winchester Houses from next year's housing stock and instead "use the money to authorize and fund

additional spaces on the Study-Away programs." The decision was finalized two days prior to the e-mail as a result of the significantly larger number of study away applicants than anticipated.

The original purpose of the Winchester Houses was to increase the housing supply to match the demand for the 2005 – 2006 academic year. The houses were intended as a short-term strategy to account for the unexpectedly large size of the classes of 2005 and 2006. Dean Milstone said the strategy to increase housing also includes adding the Park and additional River Ridge apartments, "maintaining secondary lounges as student housing," allowing a small number of rising juniors to commute, and increasing the number of students permitted to study away by five. The primary house lounges temporarily converted to first year student housing will again be common rooms next year.

According to Shirley Parson, Associate Director of the National and International Programs Office (ONIP), the Study Away committee has been "targeting to send about 55 to 60 percent of qualified juniors for each class year for one semester of study away." Because the size of every class varies, the number of students approved to study away increases or decreases accordingly. There were an "extremely high" number of applicants for students interested in studying away next semester, according to David Milstone, Dean of Student Life. In total there were 185 applicants to study away, applying to approximately 35 different countries. The Study Away committee had only been planning for 149 students to be studying away in the fall of 2005, Parson said.

The Priorities Planning and Budget Committee (PPBC), responsible for all major budget and planning decisions of the College, decided to increase the number of students permitted to study abroad by approximately twenty in order to alleviate the enrollment rise that originally resulted in the acquisition of the Winchester properties for student housing. The PPBC, composed of senior administrators, faculty, staff, students and advisors, handles the \$92 million operating budget of the school. The PPBC recommends changes such as this to the President of the College who then recommends to the Board of Trustees, which has the final say in all matters of the College.

The PPBC had been prepared to accommodate only 160 students to be off campus this fall, according to Parson. The PPBC responded to the "concrete demand from students to go abroad" by deciding to redirect the funds from the Winchester houses into ONIP programs. This allows for 20 extra rising juniors to study away who would have otherwise been denied this option.

The original plan to increase housing stock was only slightly altered by allowing more students to study away and removing the option of the Winchester houses. Milstone said it is financially "more appealing to offer the opportunity for an additional 20 students to study away than [renovate the Winchester properties], which would be only used for two years (to support the increase in enrollment for the fall 2005 and fall 2006)." Pete Lelek

'05, President of the Student Government Association and member of the PPBC, shared a similar opinion. "It is not efficient to send more students abroad and also fix up houses that we don't need," he said.

According to Milstone, the cost of renovating the properties on Winchester Road for student housing was approximately \$400,000. The funds needed to allow 20 extra students to study abroad are "significantly less" than the cost of renovation. According to Lelek, the decision to allocate the funds for study away programs is "also more cost effective than refurbishing all of the Winchester houses; some require tremendous amounts of work to make them livable."

The decision of removing the option for Winchester houses affects the housing prospects for a significant number of students on campus. There were approximately nine groups of five students who applied to live in the Winchester Houses, according to Milstone. These groups were all offered the decision to still be considered for apartment style housing at River Ridge instead.

Overall, Dean Milstone wanted to assure the student body that "a great deal of planning and calculations went into each of these decisions and we

Fainstein Announces Resignation, Effective 2006

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as a campus-wide Internet upgrade.

While many changes have been implemented, Fainstein has also established the framework to institute future changes. One of his most significant undertakings was the creation of the Strategic Planning Committee. Last October, the SPC was charged with the task of reevaluating the College's mission and establishing reasonable goals for the year 2011, Conn's bicentennial. The Committee's goals include the creation of a new dorm, the renovation of the "plex," and the creation of a science and mathematics academic building, amongst others.

In September 2002, Fainstein appointed the Presidential Commission on a Pluralistic Community as a part of his efforts to enhance pluralism at the College. In the past two and a half years, the Committee has planned a specific vision and developed corresponding recommendations, such as the permanent appointment of a new senior level administrator for diversity, to increase pluralism.

The next sixteen months will serve as a period of reflection and decision for the College. The Board of Trustees plans to assemble a formal Selection Committee and hire an outside recruitment firm to assist the College in the decision-making process. Along with members of the faculty, staff and administration, students will be eligible to serve as members of the selection committee.

Kohn stated, "We are very fortunate to have ample time to plan a presidential search and smooth transition, and we are pleased that he will remain part of the campus community as a faculty member."

"I simply love Connecticut College," Fainstein reflected. "I love the students, faculty, staff and administration and I never want to leave. I would like to be here in some capacity, for the rest of my life."

Student Life Rethinks House Council Positions

continued from page 1

structive way and involves reducing the average number of people involved in House Council from 18 to 12. The position of class representative will be eliminated completely, except in the case of freshmen, who will be allotted one representative to be elected in the fall. The idea for keeping the freshmen representative position is to provide for freshmen perspectives in House Council, since all other positions are elected in the spring and therefore only include upperclassmen.

The new system, which was unanimously approved by the Housefellows, will be as follows: one Housefellow, one governor, one senator, one freshman representative, one representative for every floor, one SAC Coordinator, one environmental coordinator, one OVCS Representative, and one house diversity coordinator.

By eliminating the current dynamic involved in many of the positions, OSL hopes that individual representatives will take more responsibility considering the absence of a second representative. Also, by introducing floor representatives, OSL suggests that there will be a more effective division of dorm-wide tasks, such as dorm dues collection. It is also hoped that the addition of floor representatives will allow for the opinions of students from individual floors to be expressed.

Erika Berlinghof, current Chair of Academic Affairs and former Senator of Jane Addams recognized the issues that existed within the old system from experience. She said, "The new system will be generally more effective in that it will help coordinate the goals of the different houses in a more efficient, organized and responsible manner."

Sugar-Free Jazz

continued from page 4

ing lyrics and jazz trumpet sampled from Raymond Scott's "The Penguin." The album closes with the slightly creepy "How Many Cans," that starts out with a stuttering beat tapped and strummed out of the side of Sebastian's bass, shifting from loud to soft, tied together by Doughty's lyrical musings.

On *El Oso*, the band's third and final album released in 1998, De Gli Antoni's sampling moved to the forefront. Clearly influenced by drum and bass, the rhythm section under Gabay becomes even more mechanical. The bass lines depart from their usual sporadic patter, shifting towards a fixed tempo more appropriate to the new feeling. Yet there are still moments where the upright bass carry the songs like the moan of "Maybe I'll Come Down."

Even on the guitar driven songs the sonic experimentation creeps in to twist the mood in whatever direction De Gli Antoni wants. In "Circles," synthesized chirps, bleeps and harmonic tones uplift the carefree song, accompanying Doughty's repetitious harmonies.

They had a handful of mildly popular radio hits with "Super Bon Bon" and "Circles," and contributed to several soundtracks, yet they have never received the attention they deserve.

The band quietly went their separate ways in 2000 due to drug problems, the birth of De Gli Antoni's son, and tensions in the band. Each member pursued side projects and other musical acts, but Doughty has remained the busiest, putting out an excellent book of poetry called *Slanky*, writing occasional pieces for the New York Press, and touring.



The College dropped its plans to use the Winchester homes as student apartments. (Cyran)

fully expect that the housing supply for fall 2005 will meet the demand." Lelek also commented that "looking at the big picture, allowing more people to go abroad was the best decision to meet the needs of students and deal with the housing situation."

An Idiot's Guide to Spring Break 2005

continued from page 3

tionation of spring breakers worldwide. And if you happen to be single and looking for a good time without a relationship, I believe my friend summed up your situation best when he said "Cancun is a place where you don't learn people's names until the next morning." But if you'd rather go somewhere less sexual and more, uh, ski-ual, I'd probably recommend...

Colorado. Another place that I know very little about. All I can really tell you is that lots of people go there, and they usually come back with sweatshirts that say "VAIL" or "ASPEN" on them. It's got mountains, as well as the Denver Broncos, and that girl who says Kobe raped her. That's about all I know about Colorado, so let's move on to...

Puerto Rico. Finally, a place I've actually been to. After staying there over Spring Break, I can assure you with confidence that either you will like Puerto Rico, unless you don't like it. But I'm almost positive that it will be one of those two. Now, which side of this fence you lie on will probably be decided by whether or not you win at the casino. Or maybe I'm the only person who goes to Puerto Rico and spends half the time in the casino. Anyway, the drinking age is 18, there's lots of beaches (well duh, it's an island), and it's technically still part of America, so you don't have to worry about any crazy laws where you can be capitally punished for talking with your mouth full. But, if you do want to take the foreign route, you could always try...

Amsterdam. Despite popular opinion,

Amsterdam actually has many fun things to do that do not involve marijuana or the red light district. There's a great museum that I can't recall the name of at the moment, probably because I hate art. I'm also told that there are beautiful canals. But let's be honest: if you're going to Amsterdam for things like that, you wouldn't be reading a column entitled "I Have ADD". So why Amsterdam? Well, after a google search for "things to do in Amsterdam" gave me a website called www.thingstodo-amsterdam.com (and no, that is not a joke), I found this gem of a quote: "Many establishments that call themselves koffiieshop (as opposed to koffiehuis, espresso bar or sandwich shop) are in the cannabis business, though they do serve coffee." So there you have it. If you like "coffee," Amsterdam is right up your alley. But not everyone likes tokin' the reefer. Luckily for you, there's always...

Southern California. OK, that transition didn't work too well, because I can only assume that any place with that many surfers saying "dude" has to have a lot of illegal drugs in it. But that's ok. Famous for such attractions as Venice Beach, the Staples Center, and Hollywood, there are many reasons to visit Southern California. Whether or not these reasons are "good" is debatable; after all, the Staples Center is home to the Clippers, and some Hollywood-produced movies include Catwoman and Freddy vs. Jason, but that's ok. And by the way, if "deba" was a prefix that meant "one billion", "debatable" would actually mean "one billion tables." Yeah, I have no idea where that comment came from. I probably

had too much coffee in Amsterdam or something. Anyway, if you do visit California, make sure to stop by the OC. Also, if I happen to be with you when you go, make sure you bring a vomit bag for me. But to be honest, if you really want to have a good time out west, you want to go to a place that's not far from Southern California. And that place is...

Las Vegas. Where to begin? Any place where there's a chance that your vacation ends with you winding up married to Britney Spears is a place you want to be. And as if that wasn't enough, it's Vegas. Seven more reasons you should visit Vegas: the gambling, the food, the gambling, the clubs, the gambling, the free beer they give out in casinos, and the gambling.

There were many other places I could have included in this column: Aruba, Jamaica, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, and any other Caribbean island you can name. However, to be honest, I don't really know anything about any of those places, except that they're all near each other, and that there's lots of water around there.

I don't really know how to wrap this column up. Come to think of it, I also don't really know how to wrap presents, so I guess I'm just bad at wrapping things. Not to be confused with rapping. I got mad skillz, yo. Right... anyway, have a great spring break. And remember: while popping your collar may help prevent sunburns on your neck, it also drives the girls crazy. And by "crazy" I mean "mentally insane," not crazy about your looks.

also good to try to compare cities. To me, I compared Ho Chi Minh City to Beijing, both because of the respectable modernity and also because of the ability of anyone to find almost everything. There are stalls of clothes and large market places where you can shop. The roads are wide and there are separate lanes for motorcycles and bicycles, just like in Beijing. Additionally, I compared the city to Hanoi, the capital we live in at present. Overall, Ho Chi Minh City is much less nationalistic in what you see in the streets. There are less communist banners and there are less Vietnamese flags flying everywhere. However, their propaganda posters are not surprisingly dedicated to memorializing the reunification of the country. Ironically, the bus system in Hanoi is much better. Prices are generally much higher here in Saigon, whether it is food or clothing.

Though Ho Chi Minh City might seem to be the better of the two cities of the new Vietnam, I would like to disagree. It is true that it is much more comfortable here, but that is a minus in my book. I like the challenge of living in Hanoi, where English isn't widely spoken, giving us having a harder time getting around. Life in Hanoi is simpler. After all, this is why you choose to come to a foreign country - to have a different experience and a different environment.

Freeman: The Future of Vietnam?

continued from page 3

of their enemies losing in battle. Then they showed off what their enemies did to them, and even had prison cells to view. Their most gruesome presentation was with regards to Agent Orange, which they have said has caused much horror in the aftermath. Pictures of children missing body parts or being deformed are everywhere. There are even two jars with the preserved remains of unborn babies having mutations.

The next section has pictures of different protest movements worldwide and the descriptions of individuals around the world supporting the Vietnamese communists. Finally, there is an area dedicated to reconciliation with the communist government after the war.

The museum was naturally biased. However, my problem with it is that it didn't give any real explanation as to why the US involved itself in Vietnam. Sure, they showed US statements saying this war was wrong, but the fact is this museum paints America as a monster and that its sole purpose of going into Vietnam was to do all this murderous stuff and massacre civilians wherever they were. This was never the purpose of the US going into Vietnam, but those viewing this museum (most importantly ordinary Vietnamese) get a different picture. As much as it is interesting to view museums, it is

WRITE FOR THE VOICE

Conn Students Seek Emotional Retribution

SPECIAL EDITORIAL FEATURE
By Two Anonymous Senior Girls
Staff Writers

Dear Phoebe and Sassy,
I was in Cro late at night when I came upon a group of boys. With further observation, I realized they were urinating in a trashcan. I don't understand—why do boys do this when there is a bathroom five feet away?

-Freshman

Dear pissed-off,
Just like breaking windows, or writing on dorm walls, peeing on things is yet another exciting way to prove their manhood. Because drawing graphic pictures and destroying windows is obviously a good test of how much testosterone the guy has, clearly urination is the ultimate way to mark one's territory. You see, froshie, boys at this school often have a lack of REAL manhood—say taking girls out to dinner, calling them on the phone, or letting them know how they feel. Therefore, they resort to more animalistic gestures, like peeing on trash cans. There really isn't anything we can do, except sit back and shake our heads. Let them "mark their territory," just make sure it isn't you.

Dear Phoebe and Sassy,
I've recently hooked-up with a girl a few times (mainly when alcohol was involved...). She is really nice and I like hanging out with her, but I'm not sure we want the same thing. She now calls me and I get the feeling that she wants to hang out more than after the typical TNE or when the Cro bar closes on Saturday nights. How many times is getting together normal before it is not just a random hook-up?

-Senior

Dear Love It or Leave It,
It's not so much a number, as a feeling... Do you find yourself thinking of her during the day? Do you go out looking for her at night? When she calls you or asks you to do something, do you get excited, or are you just going through the motions? Ask yourself these questions and maybe you'll get a better feeling of what you want. I suspect that if you were concerned enough to write-in, maybe you don't really want anything more than a hook-up (and lets be honest, second semester senior year isn't exactly the ideal time to settle down). Hooking-up is okay too...as long as you let her know how you're feeling before she gets

too involved (ahem, especially if she's an underclassman).

Dear Phoebe and Sassy,
I recently received a text message from this guy that I am friendly with saying, yes, you guessed it, "let me beat?" (I think we all know what this means.) What is with this new phrase? I am not the only one who has noticed that this fad has taken the campus by storm. It seems that every guy is now using it and frankly, I just don't get it. Is this a new form of Conn college flattery or am I right to be judgmental?

-Junior

Dear Not Feeling the Beat,
Women have for centuries been asking men to be more direct with what they're thinking. Turns out now that they start telling us, it's not exactly what we had hoped for. Isn't there some sort of middle ground? We also have been hearing this phrase around, and have to admit, find it somewhat amusing. And by amusing, we mean funny that these guys actually think that it would work. They also seem to think that people don't understand what it means...riiight. While we give these cocky guys an A for honesty, do they really think we're going to say, "yea, sure, I'll let you beat"? Remember: you're not a hand, you're a human.

Dear Phoebe and Sassy-
I am a Senior who has waited three years to live down South, and I finally do. I have also been waiting for three years to have Senior parking and not have to haul myself from either the AC or North lot. What I did not realize when moving down South, however, is that you can't have both: if you live South, you must give up your Senior parking to lazy underclassmen and if you live North, you have parking but you have to live up North (enough said). My problem, however, is that I moved with my best friend, a Junior, who often parks outside my dorm. Should I let this one slide, or if I should say something, how should I do it?

Dear Puzzled Parker-
Both of us agree that action needs to be taken. Knowing Seniors who also live down south, we know they feel the need to protect their spots as well. Tell your friend if he wants to park in Senior spots, he's going to have to deal...you also may want to take a slightly nicer approach and offer to drive him or her down.

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CAMEL FUN PAGE!

Top Ten Least Desirable Spring Break Vacations

10. Laz (available for year-round housing on campus)
9. Home.
8. Chechnya
7. A cruise on the Titanic II
6. Podunk, Iowa..not funny, but not someplace you would want to go either.
5. Any place north of here
4. Iraq
3. The OC...well, maybe people do want to go there. That's not the point!
2. Jurassic Park
1. The Neverland Ranch

Camel Close-Up



This week's camel close-up is something we all miss dearly this time of year. And hopefully, something we'll be seeing a lot of over Spring Break. If you can't figure this one out, keep you chin up. In fact, that might give you a hint. Or maybe have some raisin bran...with two scoops of raisins...think about it. If you've got a "ray" of hope for answering this week's camel close-up, e-mail ccvoice@conncoll.edu.

Camel Curiosity

Camel meat tastes like beef

Source: Yoni Freeman

The entire campus was shocked this week to learn that Norman Fainstein is stepping down as President of the College. The thought on people's minds immediately was how the College would cope without him and who will fill his shoes. The roving reporter, always looking to please the student body, figured "who knows better what the students want than the students themselves?" So this week, we asked YOU who you would want as college president if you could appoint any person...dead or alive!

Freshman Megan Porzia

"The grouch from Sesame Street... whatever he is...that little green dude."



**Junior
Mike Greenhouse**

"Rivers Cuomo 'cause he'd rock so hard!"



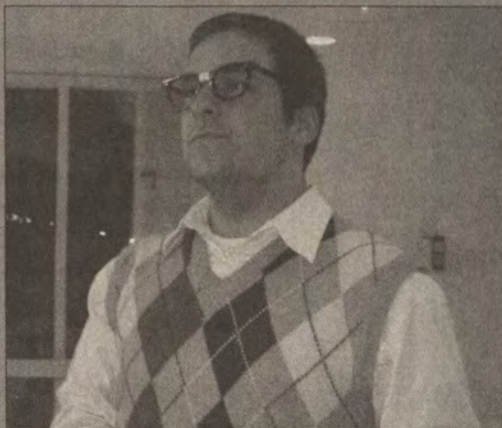
**Senior
Eve Southworth**

"Not Eugene O'Neill...because he's dead."



**Sophomore Zarrette
Rogers**

"ODB!"



Not fun enough? Send YOUR ideas for the Camel Fun Page to ccvoice@conncoll.edu. Because seriously, this page needs more aliterations.

Indoor Track Season Closes On A High Men's Squash Competes In Nationals

By SPENCER TAICH

STAFF WRITER

The men's and women's indoor track season is coming to an end almost as fast as the athletes are running. Both teams just competed in the All New England Championship at Boston University this past weekend. The Camels looked to improve on what has already been a record breaking season.

Meredith Stebbins '05 was the story of the day for the Camel women. After breaking the school record in the 800 meters earlier this season, Stebbins broke her own record posting a new school best at 2:16.94. If you don't know what it's like to run the 800, imagine how mad you'd get in gym class when the teacher told you to jog around the track once. In the 800, you sprint around the track as fast as you can...twice. With the new record, Stebbins moved up to the #10 ranking in New England for the 800. As a result of her impressive performance, Stebbins will represent Conn in the National Championships at

Illinois Wesleyan, in her home state, on March 11th.

As a group, the women's team finished 21st in the meet scoring four points. The women of Williams College dominated the meet as they finished first with 212 points, followed by the Tufts with 125.

On the men's side, Ted Hubert '06 has to clear one last obstacle to qualify for nationals. Hubert broke his own record this season in the 55 meter dash. Unsatisfied with the mark he set in the opening days of the season, Hubert kept breaking his own record until he set his latest best at 6.73 seconds on February 12th at Tufts. The time gave Hubert the #13 ranking in New England, just shy of being eligible for nationals.

All is not lost for Mr. Hubert, who still has one shot to qualify this weekend, in a meet at Trinity College. The "last chance" Trinity meet will give Hubert and a few other elite Camel runners the opportunity to qualify for nationals. Hubert has designed his training schedule around this last opportuni-

ty. "I've toned down my workouts in the past few days and I'm really concentrating on my technique for this upcoming meet." Hubert no longer has to worry about building up his strength, which is already there. He just needs to focus on the little things which will help knock off those miniscule tenths of seconds. In a sport where the time between first place and tenth place is quicker than a blink of the eye, the tiniest little improvement could make the biggest difference.

Not only have school records fallen this season in the Women's 800 and Men's 55 meter dash, but Basile Beatty '08 broke the Conn record in the men's 600. One has to ask what has been the secret formula of success for these ever quicker Camels. Hubert has his own ideas on the recent success, and it's not their short shorts.

"Added freshmen talent this year mixed with veteran leadership has really helped us improve this season, and we look to improve further in seasons ahead," Hubert said.

By STEVE STRAUSS

SPORTS EDITOR

The Connecticut College men's squash team, consistently ranked among the top schools in the country competed last week at the 2005 national championships. Making Conn's presence all the more impressive is the fact that the team competes amongst Division I schools. Most Conn teams play the bulk of their games against Division III competition. The Conn men climbed the national rankings for most of this winter, settling comfortably for the second half of the season in the top 20. After a 1-2 performance at nationals, the men's team finished with an impressive 13-7 record. Captain Brad Schwimmer '05 lamented, "The team has been great all season, and nationals were not an exception...The squad has so much heart and drive; its been an honor to play alongside everybody else this year. I wish them all the

best in the future."

The national championships featured a daunting list of teams. The Camel squad went into the weekend with confidence, however, having played many of the championship-caliber teams earlier this season. The first two games of nationals were tough. Conn did its best under the immense pressure. First on the docket was Saint Lawrence University, who dropped an 8-1 win on the Camels. The second defeat was suffered at the hands of Stanford University, who took it to Conn winning an easy 6-3 match. Vindication came, however, in the form of local rival Wesleyan, who Conn blasted 8-1. The win meant little to the championship hopes, but it boosted the team's season record, and brought a sense of local bragging rights to Conn. The College Voice congratulates the men's and women's squash teams on their impressive seasons.

Swimmers Shatter Conn Records

By GERALD WOLS

SPORTS WRITER

What a season it has been for both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams here at Conn. The Camels, particularly the men, who many wrote off at the beginning of the season, have made remarkable strides over the past season. They proved everyone wrong and finished eighth at the NESCAC Championships, the highest ever finish by the team. They managed to do it with the smallest squad out of all competing NESCAC teams, hosting only seven swimmers and one diver. The women's team must also be applauded, as once again they have proven that they are one of the flagships of Connecticut College sports, finishing with their highest NESCAC finish in history with a 5th place finish and 850 points. The Camels finished just 6.5 points behind fourth place Colby College. Williams College won the championship with 1,729 points. Amherst College was second with host Middlebury and Colby College rounding out the top four.

"I was generally pleased with my performance at NESCAC's. In both the 100 and 50 I swam faster than last year, even though I wasn't completely rested," said captain Kate Kovenock '05. Kovenock will participate in Nationals starting on March 10th. An All-American, she paced the Camels by winning three events, setting a meet and pool record in the 50 (23.47 seconds) and 100 freestyle (51.26 seconds) and a pool record in the 200 yard freestyle (1:53.20). At the conclusion of the meet, Kovenock was honored as the NESCAC Senior Swimmer of the Year. Kovenock earned the honor by scoring the most points in four years of NESCAC Championship competition.

Over the weekend, five college

records were broken and three NCAA 'A' cuts and six NCAA 'B' cuts were achieved. On day one, the team of Rysia Murphy 07, Chrissy Leblon 08, Kate Kovenock, and Kata Franczyk 07 finished fourth in the 200 freestyle relay with a new college record and NCAA 'B' qualifying time of 1:37.77.

The 50 yard freestyle tandem of Kovenock and Franczyk made history as finalists in the same event. On the second day, Kate Kovenock followed with her third consecutive 200 freestyle victory in an NCAA 'A' qualifying time and new Meet record of 1:53.20. The Camels finished the night in sixth place.

On the third day of competition the Camels rallied from a thirty point deficit to move into fifth place. Kate Kovenock once again won the 100 yard freestyle for the fourth straight year in a new meet and pool record with an NCAA 'A' cut time of 51.26. Senior diver Ali McDonald made her second final of the meet, finishing eighth on the 3-meter board.

The Camels posted their best finish at a NESCAC Championship in the history of the program. The Camels topped their seventh place finish at the 2004 NESCAC Championship. Five college records were shattered at Middlebury.

The men's team was also in extraordinary form, proving that hard work and dedication makes a world of difference. The team managed to break nine Camel records and finish in the highest position in program history. The team finished in eighth place at the 2005 New England Small College Athletic Conference Championship hosted by Wesleyan University February 25-27. The team scored 511.5 points, finishing ahead of Trinity (460), Bowdoin (432) and Bates

College (411 points).

"This was a totally new experience for myself and the majority of the team. We rose to the challenge and did very well. I am proud of my teammates," said an excited Brian McVeety '08.

On the first day, the Camels were sitting in ninth place after a successful session, where three college records were shattered. Freshman Kyle Bartro placed fifth in the 50 yard butterfly, setting a new college record with a time of 23.40 seconds. On the second day, the Camels surged into eighth place with five appearances in the "A" final. The Camels made history by placing two of the top eight finishers in the 1000 yard freestyle. Alex Wood set a college record in a time of 9:51.32 to finish sixth and Sam Garner followed in seventh place, posting a time of 9:53.81.

On Sunday, the Camels extended their lead over Trinity to finish eighth place as a team. They kept up the pressure on Trinity, and at the end the Camels proved too good to be caught by their Hartford rivals. In the first event of the night, Alex Wood finished fifth with a time of 16:31.75 in the 1650 freestyle. Wood's finish time shattered the college record by nearly 25 seconds.

This season has truly been a success for the Camels. The Camels set nine college records over the weekend, posting the highest finish for any CC men's swimming team at a NESCAC Championship. The Camels posted their first victory in a dual meet against NESCAC rival Bates College February 5. The team will return its entire roster for the 2005-2006 campaign and with some new recruits that Coach Benvenuti is trying to bring in, and the returning juniors from abroad this team can only get better.

Heated Football Rivalries In Europe

continued from page 10

researched and an often misunderstood area. The degree to which rivalry underpins football and affects the behavior of fans in a number of different ways cannot be underestimated. Football is much more than a game, or even a way of life. Football clubs not only represent geographic areas (which in some cases have little significance), they stand for social class, religious beliefs and political orientation. Unlike American football, baseball and basketball, football is associated with ancient hatred and with cultural history as its chief ingredient to fuel the fire that burn between rival supporters.

When we look at Scotland, for example, the rivalry which is arguably the fiercest on the island is FC Celtic vs. Glasgow Rangers. FC Celtic and Glasgow Rangers have been the two primary contenders in the Scottish league since the late 1880s. Celtic supporters are referred to as "Tims," a combination from the name of Catholic gangs who called themselves the Tim Malloys and the Calton area of Glasgow. Rangers fans call themselves Billy boys (from an infamous Protestant razor gang in the late 1920's). The name Billy actually comes from the gang's founder Billy Fullerton. Their hatred dates back to the Irish wave of immigrants who sought for a better life in Scotland. They were a minority group and discriminated against.

In England, we have the Manchester derby. United vs. City, blue vs. red, brother vs. brother. City and United have preserved one of the oldest rivalries in European football. Both clubs were founded in the late 19th century. Despite the fact that United has been more prevalent and the far more successful team in recent decades, entertaining matches often happen when the two teams meet. The 1993 encounter between City and United at Maine Road is considered one of the greatest EPL games of the 90s. The Stretford End at Old Trafford is the place for diehard K-Stand United fans. Manchester City also has its zealous fan base. Throughout the 2001/2002 season, 106 City fans were arrested (third largest number in all of England). Apart from their dedication, violence rarely breaks out amongst English supporters at the stadium. Most hooligan incidents mostly occur at bars and other gatherings outside of the stadium.

Moving onto the mainland, football rivalries are evident in all countries and cities around Europe. Italy hosts some of the more violent rivalries and these are normally a division of class or geographical position within a city. Roma and Lazio are the two biggest teams in Rome and they have been at battle since the early part of the 20th century. Generally, Roma Ultras represent the left wing middle class from the center of the city. In contrast, the Iriducibili are rich, right wing suburban residents. Both Lazio and AS Roma share the same home venue, Stadio Olimpico. It serves as a tremendous stage for the intra-city battle. In Milan, another Italian city, a rivalry

has been brewing since the beginning of football in Italy. AC Milan vs. Internazionale is easily the most anticipated game on the Italian football calendar. They both share the same stadium, the San Siro. The Curva Sud is home of the Rossoneri (AC Milan) and the Curva Nord belongs to the Nerazzurri (Inter). It is rivalries like these that point out the great divide amongst the supporters' social status and political beliefs.

Moving further East, the rivalries, one could argue become more intense and violent. In the Serbian capital, Partizan Belgrade and Red Star Belgrade literally fight for superiority of the city. Serbian fans were highly influenced by the Italian Ultras although they incorporate local cultural elements. In Belgrade, present-day Serbia, there exists an intense rivalry between Partizan and Red Star. The Grobari (Undertakers) and Delije supporters get into severe conflicts. Many of these happen at the stadium and may feature anything from mob fights in the stands to riots on the actual pitch. It was Arkan (a Serbian warlord) who revolutionized the Red Star supports club into a paramilitary group, which was a highly effective gang of thugs and criminals during the Yugoslav war. He called his supporters club the Red Tigers and they plundered and resorted to violence in a war-torn country. These fans did not have anything. Their country was decimated by war and ethnic bloodshed. They remained loyal to their football club – in many ways it was the only thing they had, and they were going to protect the love of their lives at all costs, even if it meant dying.

In Greece the football scene revolves around the capital, Athens. The battle of Athens between Olympiakos and Panathina is the biggest rivalry in Greece. Olympiakos is known for their fanatical fans which live mostly in the lowest/poorest parts of the city. Panathinaikos supporters are from the higher/richer part of Athens. Since the past few years, Panathinaikos has been more successful in European competition.

I could go on and list countless football rivalries across the World, there is the Munich derby between Bayern and 1860, or Boca Juniors vs. River Plate in Argentina, and let's not forget Kaizer Chiefs vs. Orlando Pirates in South Africa, Barcelona and Real Madrid... the list is endless. Football rivalries define the social status, religious affiliation, geographical position and political orientation amongst its supporters. They have been used for political and nationalistic purposes, and this can cause serious problems, as in Yugoslavia. A football team is more than a way of life for many supporters, and they will do anything to protect their status and dominance of their team. The fans really are the 12th man. It is the fans that make the team, yet no fan is larger than the team. Rivalries bring out the best in people, but also the worst – it all depends if you are on the winning or losing team.

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SPORTS

Football Rivalries In Europe

So here is the deal, I wrote this crazy column about football rivalries in Europe and why they are so much better than American sports rivalries, but then I didn't save it, and now it's gone. Gone like the bloody wind. It went along the lines of something like this: After much criticism for last week's article by certain mem-



GERALD WOLS
Int'l Man Of Sport

bers of the public (none other than M a r k o O'Hern, who should be careful of what he says or else he will be paddling his own boat across the Atlantic instead of taking a plane to South Africa), I have decided to write a serious article about sports. Football rivalries in Europe and generally in the rest of the world (minus the United States) are more intense and more legitimate than in the U.S. sports rivalries. I can provide a long list of American rivalries and why they have no case against their neighbors from across the Atlantic. Famous American rivalries include the Lakers vs. the Celtics, Ohio State vs. Michigan, the Red Sox vs. the Yankees, Duke vs. UNC and so on. When I look at these rivalries, they do not compare to the football rivalries seen in Europe today. The Red Sox and the Yankees is the closest professional sporting rivalry which can be compared to the European Football rivalries. A clash of two cities, but that's about it. UNC vs. Duke and Ohio State vs. Mich are also fiercely competed games and they always guarantee for some sort of controversy and excitement. However, these are only a few rivalries which I would consider legitimate. The Lakers and the Celtics can not claim that they have a rivalry. Yes, the games they played in the 70's and 80's were some of the most exciting games in the NBA; they saved the NBA from near extinction. It was not so much a rivalry between two teams but rather between two players – Magic Johnson and Larry Bird. When these two players retired the rivalry between the Celtics and the Lakers died, and nowadays this "great rivalry" doesn't even get sold out. The majority of rivalries in the US are based on success, meaning that the media dubs the two most successful teams to have a rivalry. Rivalry week on ESPN gets the common fan interested in these made up rivalries; they need something to market the teams and to promote the sport. It's all about money and business in the U.S. If a team is losing support it might move its franchise to another city, leaving its fans to support another team. Once this success runs out, the media loses interest in the teams and this has a domino effect on the public as they also get over the rivalry. Rivalries can not be bought; they are the accumulation of decade-long disputes: social, religious and political divides.

This is the case for football. The most passionate part of football has to be club rivalries. Nothing compares to how fans feel after beating the team they love to hate the most. Nothing makes their blood boil more or puts them in a deeper state of depression than when their team loses. Despite being one of the most intrinsic parts of the game, it is rarely

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Men's Lax Looking For Strong NESCAC Season

By PETER STERLING
SPORTS EDITOR

Coming off a year filled with highs and lows, the Conn College men's lacrosse team will look to again gain a postseason berth, and establish itself as one of the tougher teams in the NESCAC. The Camels fell in last year's playoffs in the first round against Tufts University. The 2004 season found many new faces on the team, with several players from the freshman class finding themselves in important roles on the field. Conn overcame the challenge of integrating so many new faces, and battled into the playoffs. This year, the team will be playing one of the most difficult schedules in the nation, competing against top Division III teams. Although the task is daunting, the team will again look to be competitive with the top teams in their division, and ultimately be looking forward to postseason play this spring.

The Camels are lucky to have the bulk of their roster back for the 2005 season, as the team will certainly benefit from the experience of veterans at every point on the field. At attack, Brad Luckhardt '06 returns to once again be one of the key attackmen on the Conn roster. In his first two seasons, Luckhardt has compiled 50 assists to establish himself as one of the top attackers in the NESCAC. Russ Chase '07 had a definite impact in his first season in a Camel uniform, compiling 13 goals and 6 assists. Conn will look to Chase to continue his strong con-



The Connecticut College men's lacrosse team is returning the bulk of its starters and is looking forward to a big spring season. (Archive)

tributions throughout the season. From the same class, Jordan Yearsley '07 compiled 20 points in his rookie season, will once again bring his hustle and playmaking abilities at the attack position.

Captains Dave Schwartz '05 and Andy Shopneck '05 will look to

bring their past seasons of experience to lead what is shaping up to be a midfield filled with talent. Brendan Rampi '06, who lead the team in goals with 19 in 2004, will return after spending the fall semester abroad to be one of the main offensive leaders for the Camels. Joe

Higgins '06, coming off a solid 2004 season at second line, will also look to step up and be a leader in the midfield. Chas McLaughlin '06, along Robbie Logan '07 and Lane Carpenter '07, are all coming off

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Women's Lacrosse Prepares For Spring Season



The Conn College women's lacrosse team, which finished 8-8 last year, is hoping to improve and join the ranks of the NESCAC elite. (Web)

By STEVE STRAUSS
SPORTS EDITOR

As the pre-season wears on, tension for the women's lacrosse opener, only days away, is mounting. Expectations are sky-high for the program which returns a remarkable core of players from last season. Add a deep freshman class with limitless potential to the mix and the possibilities are endless. Molly McConaty '07, one of the Camel's leading scorers, noted last spring, "This is a really exciting time for us. The freshman class is huge... everyone is waiting to see what we can do when real play starts."

Though the deep freshman class is a big unknown, there are a number of sure things about the squad heading into this spring's campaign. First and foremost, the team carries with it a huge swing of momentum from the end of last season. After starting 4-8, the team swung around (largely due to contributions from young players) to finish an even .500 at 8-8. The offense, which wracked up 58 goals last season, returns a number of players. Captain Sarah Tacy '05 tallied a remarkable 17 goals and 17 assists in 2004. McConaty's prowess has been proven as well. She hit the back of the net 15 times last season to go along with seven

assists. In addition, Courtney Irving '07, who scored five goals last year, will be leaned on heavily in the coming months. Said McConaty, "Our attack unit is extremely solid...It's good that we are returning athletes who played a lot last year, because we know each other's games and interact better on the field."

The midfielders on the 2005 team are not to be done by their attacking counterparts. Head coach Anne Lesch is a former midfielder herself and understands the importance of the position. Returning players at the midfield spot include Maggie Driscoll '06, Melissa

Ridgway '06, Kelsey Sullivan '06 and Sarah Chandler '07. Driscoll led the Camels in assists last season with 24 in addition to winning 23 draws and scooping an astounding 46 ground balls. Sullivan netted a remarkable 28 goals while winning 20 draws and gathering up 26 ground balls. Ridgway totaled 11 ground balls last season; Chandler scored five goals. Depth and experience in the midfield will be paramount to the Camels attaining the next level of status within the NESCAC. The game is won or lost when the ball is on the ground.

If the old proverb that "Offense wins games, defense wins championships" holds true, the Camels will be certainly be sitting pretty come playoff time. Their strong defensive unit is anchored by the dynamic goaltending duo of Paige Diamond '05 and Alix Werner '06. Diamond garnered all-region honors in 2004 while making 216 saves for an 11.36 goals against average. Werner made 33 saves last year and has put in spectacular minutes during pre-season scrimmages. The net will be protected by a strong team led by Captain Mary Scott '05. Scott will suit up alongside Lindsay Graff '07, among others.

In all, the thin but talented ranks of returning players will lead an inexperienced yet deep group of freshman against many of the nation's best teams this spring. Conn sports fans will most certainly witness some great lacrosse in the coming weeks. In pre-season play Conn went 2-1 in short scrimmages, suffering its only loss to NESCAC rival Wesleyan in a sloppy contest which holds no indication of future outcomes. The team will play Smith, Skidmore and Hamilton over six days. The opener is on March 14 against Smith. The home opener will be played on March 24 against Mt. Holyoke.

The Tale Of JamesOn Curry

This month in sports is unlike any other. We get the chance to watch baseball players transform themselves from out-of-shape amateur golfers to deceptively effective athletes in front of our eyes, thanks to the media's way-too-in-depth coverage of Spring Training. More importantly, we have the unique opportunity to get excited about college basketball games from no-name conferences. I wrote about the great N o r t h Carolina-Duke game a few weeks ago, along with Arizona-Washington and others. The best college basketball I have seen in a long time, however, took place this past weekend between Oklahoma State and Kansas.



CHARLIE WIDDOES
Viewpoint

The battle for the Big 12 regular season conference title and a possible number one seed in the NCAA tournament provided all the necessary storylines for this game that Kansas won, 81-79. The game was full of stars, with Wayne Simien and John Lucas being the biggest names. Simien scored a career high 32 points to go with his 12 rebounds, and Lucas dropped 22, including 4-5 from downtown. The energy of the game was palpable. Both teams played defense that would make the Detroit Pistons proud and each possession more was unbelievable than the one before. Keith Langford hit a huge shot to put the Jayhawks up four with under a minute left, but JamesOn Curry came right back down, crossed up Langford and hit a jumper, hitting nothing but net. Kansas went on to win after Lucas's last second three barely missed, but both teams showed the toughness that makes NCAA champions.

In a game filled with impressive performances, it was Curry who stood out to me. His story is truly remarkable: his 40.2 points, 7.3 rebounds, and six assists per game as a high school senior landed him a scholarship to play for North Carolina.

When half of his school was arrested and charged with taking part in large-scale drug possession and distribution, he was sent to jail, and Roy Williams rescinded his scholarship offer. The golden child of Mebane, a destitute town in rural North Carolina, had seemingly wasted an opportunity for himself and had squandered the dreams of a whole town. That was until Oklahoma State swooped in and decided to give him a second chance.

By all accounts, Oklahoma State could not have been luckier to get him. He has stayed out of trouble, which comes as no surprise to people who know him, and he has shown why he is the all-time leading scorer in North Carolina high school history, averaging close to 10 points a game and shooting 45% from three. In his last 10 games he has scored 15 twice and 14 once, showing that he is getting better with time, which is scary because he's only a freshman. JamesOn deserves all the credit in the world for staying focused on his goals and working through adversity. It won't be long until he is a household name, and this time it will be for what he does on the court, not off of it.

Camel Scoreboard

Men s Basketball: 5-18

Women s Hockey: 5-17-2

Men s Squash: 13-7

Women s Basketball: 10-13

Men s Hockey: 7-16-1

Women s Squash: 8-11